

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 15892 01 OF 02 182313Z  
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 /021 W  
-----047187 182356Z /70

R 182014Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8392

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 15892

E.O. 11652:N/A  
TAGS:BBSR, BE  
SUBJ:WTDR/FTI - SONACA S.A. - SOCIETE NATIONALE DE  
CONSTRUCTIONS AEROSPATIALES

REF: USDOC 12466

1. BELGIUM  
OFFICE USE: 2. 423 3. NA 4. 01  
5. SONACA S.A. - SOCIETE NATIONALE DE CONSTR. AEROSPATIALE  
6. ROUTE NATIONALE 5  
7. B-6200 GOSSELIES  
8. CONTACT: MARCEL CLAISSE  
9. TITLE: MANAGING DIRECTOR  
OTHER OFFICIALS ARE JULES HOEBEKE, PURCHASING MANAGER AND  
E.G. TYLEE, DIRECTOR GENERAL  
10. PHONE: (071) 35.01.90 11. TELEX: 51241 12.CABLE:NA  
13. ESTABL:1978 14.EMPL:1252 15.SIZE: LARGE  
16. REPUTATION: U-UNKNOWN 17.RPT DATE:08/78  
OFFICE USE: 18.NA 19.NA 20.NA 21.NA 22.-  
23A.37211/04 MFR. & EXP. OF AIRCRAFTS, MILITARY TYPE  
23B.37214/9 MODIFICATIONS, CONVERSIONS AND OVERHAUL  
OF PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED AIRCRAFT  
23C.37216/9 OTHER AERONAUTICAL SERVICES ON AIRCRAFT  
(REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT)  
23D.37281/045 MFR. IMP. & EXP. OF AIRCRAFT PARTS AND  
ACCESSORIES, MILITARY  
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 15892 01 OF 02 182313Z

23E.37283/9 RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ON AIRCRAFT PARTS,  
MILITARY  
24.SELLS TO UNSPECIFIED NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES  
25. FINANCIAL REFERENCES: BANQUE BRUXELLES-LAMBERT,  
RUE ASTRID, 6200 GOSSELIES  
  
26. TRADE REF:NA

27. FOREIGN FIRMS REPRESENTED:NA

28. POST EVALUATION: SONACA WAS INCORPORATED ON APRIL 10, 1978 TO STUDY, ASSEMBLE, OVERHAUL, PURCHASE AND SELL ALL TYPES OF AIRPLANES AND THEIR ACCESSORIES. IN FACT SONACA WAS ESTABLISHED TO ASSURE THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF FAIREY, WHICH WENT INTO RECEIVERSHIP IN OCTOBER 1977 AND BY DOING SO TO SAFEGUARD THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE OF THE F-16 PROGRAM IN BELGIUM AND IF POSSIBLE TO KEEP AFLOAT FAIREY-GOSSELIES CIVIL AVIATION OPERATIONS WHICH INCLUDED THE PRODUCTION OF ISLANDER AND TRISLANDER LIGHT AIRCRAFT. (AN AGREEMENT IS BEING DRAFTED NOW FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE BRITTEN-NORMAN PRODUCTION BY THE SWISS FIRM PILATUS). BETWEEN NOV.77 AND MAY 1,78 THE COMPANY WAS RUN BY THE RECEIVERS. AT LEAST ONE IMPORTANT US SUPPLIER WAS A CLAIMANT AGAINST THE FAIREY ASSETS.

SONACA OFFICIALLY STARTED OPERATIONS ON MAY 1, 1978 AND ONLY TOOK OVER THE MILITARY AERONAUTIC EQUIPMENT PRODUCTION (ALL ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN THE F-16 FIGHTER PROGRAM I.E. PRODUCTION OF THE TAIL FUSELAGE AND VARIOUS METAL STRUCTURES INCLUDING THE PRIMARY ASSEMBLY OF THE F-16 AIRCRAFT AS WELL AS THE CONTRACTS WHICH ARE REGULARLY GRANTED BY DASSAULT-BREGUET FOR SUB-ASSEMBLIES OF DIFFERENT FIGHTER MODELS "MIRAGE").

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 15892 01 OF 02 182313Z

SONACA HAS 1,252 PERSONS ON THE PAYROLL TAKEN OVER FROM FAIREY.

ITS CAPITAL AMOUNTS TO 95 MILLION BF, IT IS DIVIDED INTO 95,000 SHARES. SHAREHOLDERS ARE:  
SOCIETE NATIONALE D'INVESTISSEMENT (BELGIAN GOVERNMENT) 45 MILLION BF OR 45,000 SHARES  
FN & FN INTERNATIONAL 25 MILLION BF (FN, 19,000 SHARES; FN INTERN., 6,000 SHARES)  
SAIT ELECTRONIC - 12,5 MILLION BF OR 12,500 SHARES  
SABCA - 10 MILLION BF OR 9,999 SHARES  
CARTONEX - 2,5 MILLION BF OR 2,500 SHARES  
SINCE THIS CAPITAL WAS INSUFFICIENT FOR THE NEW COMPANY TO OPERATE UNDER ACCEPTABLE FINANCIAL CONDITIONS, THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT GRANTED A REVOCABLE LOAN OF 150 MILLION BF. CONVERTIBLE SHARES WILL ALSO BE PUT OUT. POSSIBILITY IS BEING PROVIDED, IN CASE PRIVATE COMPANIES DO NOT WISH TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRM, FOR BELGIAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER THE PRIVATE SHARES FOR 1 BF.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ARE:  
MR. JEAN DE FONVENT, PRESIDENT

MR. MARCEL CLAISSE, MANAGING DIRECTOR  
MR. E.G. TYLEE, DIRECTOR GENERAL  
MR. PIERRE MINET, ADMINISTRATOR  
MR. RENE BRYSSINCK, ADMINISTRATOR  
MR. VINCENT NEY, ADMINISTRATOR  
MR. THIERRY VIVARIO, ADMINISTRATOR

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 15892 02 OF 02 182310Z  
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 /021 W  
-----046936 182358Z /70  
R 182014Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8393

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 15892

IN VIEW OF THE FIRM'S RECENT ESTABLISHMENT EMBASSY IS  
UNABLE TO FORM OPINION REGARDING ITS BUSINESS REPUTATION.  
ACCORDINGLY, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT ALL NORMAL  
PRECAUTIONS BE EXERCIZED IN DEALING WITH THIS FIRM UNTIL  
EXPERIENCE SHOULD PROVE OTHERWISE. EMBASSY WILL SUBMIT  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IF AND WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.  
29. PREP: NICOLE BEEK APPR: EDWARD E. KELLER

CHAMBERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Subject:** WTD/FTI - SONACA S.A. - SOCIETE NATIONALE DE CONSTRUCTIONS AEROSPATIALES  
**TAGS:** BBSR, BE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/def25160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014